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24 May 1972

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Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters, USA
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear General ~~Walters~~ Walters:

Attached is a copy of the Address given by the Ambassador of New Zealand, Mr. Frank Corner, given on ANZAC Day, 25 April. I was impressed with the comments of the Address and thought that you might be interested in it.

Sincerely,

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ANZAC DAY, 25 APRIL 1972

ADDRESS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF NEW ZEALAND,
HIS EXCELLENCY MR FRANK CORNER

Today is the fifty-seventh anniversary of a military encounter early in the First World War - an attempt by a force of 75,000 men, nearly half of them Australians and New Zealanders, to land on the beaches of Gallipoli in Turkey, and to capture the Straits of the Dardanelles.

To our friends who honour us by their presence and their solidarity at services of this kind throughout the world it may seem strange that this, the annual commemoration of all our war dead, should focus upon a relatively unimportant First World War encounter.

For the event we commemorate was not a last-ditch defence of our own countries - Gallipoli lies many thousands of miles from our shores. Nor was it a glorious victory for Australian and New Zealand forces - it was the gallant Turkish foe who won the field of battle; for us the Gallipoli campaign ended in clear-cut defeat and withdrawal.

But on that battlefield was born our first sense of national pride: from contemplation of the deeds done there, and from the realisation that these amateurs from the colonies did not suffer by comparison even with the superb soldiers sent by our British and French allies - nations with a great martial tradition. Though put in an impossible situation - not for the last time - these men like the three hundred who fell not far away at Thermopylae nevertheless did what they regarded as their duty, and they fought with dash, courage and endurance. "Stranger, tell them at home that we lie here faithful to their laws."

So we focus on Gallipoli as the symbol of the honourable deeds of tens of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who fought and died in that and in many later desperate battles - in causes once clear-cut, nowadays it seems more complex. We remind ourselves of the Anzac spirit, which connotes giving as well as receiving in the cause of freedom; standing by our friends and allies when they are in trouble; interpreting our obligations generously and fulfilling them promptly. For we who live abroad do not forget that if we walk with self-respect in any company it is in large part because we know we come from nations whose people have consistently shown this spirit of Anzac.

But chiefly today we honour our dead, who lie, men and women, not only at Gallipoli but at Passchendaele, the Somme, Greece and Crete, in the North African desert, Italy, Burma,

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Malaysia, the Pacific Islands, Korea and Vietnam; in graves lovingly tended or in places known only to God on mountain tops, in jungles and beneath the sea.

John Mulgan, a New Zealander who did not return, was describing the arrival of the New Zealanders who later swept North Africa, but could have had in mind all these Australians and New Zealanders when he wrote: "Everything that was good from that small, remote country had gone into them - sunshine and strength, good sense, patience, the versatility of practical men - And they marched into history".

They have marched into history. We are edging our way into the future. At a time when values are being reappraised and old standards so questioned that the path of duty and even of honour is by no means clear, it is right that we should be challenged, as we are today, to take stock of ourselves against the values of those who occupy our minds and hearts at this commemoration. But at the same time we shall not forget that free men fight, and die, not merely to preserve things as they are but because, as Mulgan also said, they "have visions and dream dreams of another New Zealand [or Australia] [or world] that might grow into the future on the foundations of the old".